

# Meeting addresses education issues

Tech. Sgt. Jim Moser  
Public Affairs

Col. Steve Wilson, 14th Flying Training Wing commander, held a town hall meeting Wednesday at the base theater to discuss the results of the Columbus AFB education survey.

Col. Keith Keck, 14th Mission Support Group commander and liaison to the Columbus Municipal School Board, opened the meeting with an overview of the survey results.

“The survey, conducted from March 5 to the 23, showed that overall 64 percent of the parents were satisfied with the education provided by schools their children attend,” Col. Keck said.

The survey went into more detail, breaking down results by satisfaction rating. Results showed 77 percent of parents are satisfied with private schools. Public schools, including Caledonia, New Hope and Columbus Municipal Schools, had a 57 percent satisfaction rating. The survey results also specifically addressed the Columbus Municipal School System, which had a 46 percent satisfaction rating.

The results highlighted the positive aspects of the Columbus School System including Franklin Elementary School leadership, the advanced placement and honors curriculum at Lee Middle School and Columbus High School, and caring teachers. Some areas of concern were academics, safety, security and discipline.

After the base survey results were shared, Dr. Lester Beason, Columbus Municipal Schools superintendent, gave a presentation on the proposed reorganization of the Columbus School System.

Dr. Beason pointed out that the school system staff had worked very hard to create a plan for a better school system, but still valued input from the community.

“Every child deserves a world-class education,” he said.

Dr. Beason urged people to visit [www.columbuscityschools.org](http://www.columbuscityschools.org) and give feedback about the reorganization.

The meeting ended with a question and answer session about the reorganization and other issues parents might have with the Columbus School System.

“I would like to thank the people from the base who came out to the meeting,” Colonel Keck said. “It’s obvious the people who attended take their children’s education seriously and want to make sure the children going to Columbus schools get the best education possible.”

*(Editor’s note: Base people who are having problems resolving issues with the Columbus School System can contact Maj. Alessandra Stokstad, Columbus AFB’s resolution team leader, at Ext. 2616.)*



First Lt. Alexander Fafinski

**Lt. Gen. Donald Wetekam, deputy chief of staff for installations and logistics, presents the Air Force Thomas D. White Award for Natural Resource Conservation to Col. Stephen Wilson, 14th Flying Training Wing commander, while Sarah Fafinski and Mike Smith, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron Environmental Flight, display an Air Force citation for best resource management alongside the Honorable Nelson Gibbs, assistant secretary of the Air Force for installations.**

# Environmental flight wins DOD award

Airman 1st Class Boto Best  
Public Affairs

Columbus AFB recently won the Secretary of Defense Annual Environmental Award for Natural Resources Conservation in the small installation category.

Col. Stephen Wilson, 14th Flying Training Wing commander, along with members of the 14th Civil Engineering Squadron’s environmental flight, received the award at a ceremony May 5 at the Pentagon.

“Columbus won the award as a direct result of the hard work and dedication of every member of the BLAZE TEAM,” said Michael Smith,

14th CES environmental flight chief.

Through support agreements with the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Forestry Service, Wildlife Managment Service and Natural Resource Conservation Service as well as the Mississippi Forestry Commission, the base enhanced both flying safety and the natural environment on and around the base, Mr. Smith said.

In December 2003, Columbus AFB won the Thomas D. White Natural Resources Conservation Award at command level. In March 2004, the base won the award at Air Force level. Donald Rumsfeld, secretary of defense, announced the DoD level award winners May 3.

DoD level environmental awards are

given for only six categories. Columbus AFB won in its category, beating out the Army, Marine Corps, Navy and the Defense Logistics Agency.

[Columbus AFB’s] Natural Resource Program has truly ‘BLAZED the trail’ to bring improvements to the base, the greater community and future generations, officials said.

Efforts toward achieving healthy forests and dramatically improving flight training safety through wildlife hazard planning and working with partners to implement the program in a cost effective manner has earned Columbus AFB recognition as the U.S. Air Force leader in natural resource conservation.

# Columbus AFB youth of year wins at AETC level

Airman Cecilia Rodriguez  
Public Affairs

A Columbus AFB youth recently received the Air Education and Training Command Youth of the Year award.

Deborah Garrison was named Columbus AFB Youth of the Year in December 2003, and upon review of her award package, AETC officials deemed her worthy of the title at the command level.

No Air Force-level youth of the year competition exists; therefore the command-level winners have received youth

of the year top honors in their respective commands.

Packages were evaluated on subjects such as leadership qualities, service exhibited through home and family, moral values, activity in the community, service to the youth center and life goals, said Lisa Stone, youth and child specialist from AETC headquarters.

Deborah’s package stood out among a dozen others submitted from throughout the command.

At the end of June, youth award winners from all Air Force bases will attend a trip to Washington, D.C. Deborah will not only represent Columbus AFB, but the entire AETC command at the meeting this summer, where she will get the

chance to sight-see and attend a teen forum addressing topics currently facing youths across the nation.

“We are very pleased about Deborah’s accomplishments,” said Joy Garrison, Deborah’s mother. “She’s worked very hard throughout the year, both in school and in her volunteer work. We know she’ll be a success in whatever she wants to do.



Deborah Garrison  
AETC Youth of the Year

# Saving energy can decrease power bills by up to \$20

Sunday through May 22 is Energy Awareness Week.

During this time, BLAZE TEAM members are asked to take a moment to consider the importance of using energy wisely.

“When we turn on a light, open our refrigerators or drive around base, we don’t think about how much energy we use,” said Stephanie Smith, maintenance engineering chief.

“However, if we would take a moment to stop and think about what we’re doing,

we might realize how much energy we could be conserving by simply changing a few simple habits.”

Here are a few facts:

❑ Opening and closing the refrigerator 50 times a day increases your power bill by about \$20 per year.

❑ Setting home thermostats to 70 to 72 degrees in the summer and 76 to 78 degrees in the winter maximizes comfort and energy efficiency.

❑ Setting water heaters at 120 degrees

instead of 140 degrees reduces energy consumption by 5 percent.

❑ Soaking lawns once a week with about an inch of water is better than watering it for short periods throughout the week because it uses less water and encourages the grass to develop deeper roots. This makes for less weeds and a healthier lawn.

Parents and children can learn to fight “villainous energy hogs” by experiencing the Hogbusters Training Camp at

[www.energyhog.org](http://www.energyhog.org).

More information on energy conservation concepts and policies can be found in Columbus AFB Pamphlet 23-301, Energy Conservation Program.

In addition, the Department of Energy has created several Web sites that provide interactive energy awareness activities.

A virtual tour of a house that shows ways to save energy and money is also available at [www.eere.energy.gov](http://www.eere.energy.gov).

*(Courtesy of the 14th Civil Engineering Squadron)*

# SECAF approves medal for tornado relief efforts

**RANDOLPH AFB, Texas** — Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James Roche has approved awarding the Humanitarian Service medal to Airmen who directly participated in tornado relief for the civilian community surrounding Columbus AFB in November 2002.

To qualify for the award, a person must have been assigned or attached to a unit providing direct “hands-on” humanitarian-relief actions within the community between Nov. 10 and Nov. 13, 2002.

He or she must have also been physically present within the community surrounding the disaster

area, and either contributed directly or influenced relief efforts.

Eligibility for Soldiers, Sailors and Marines is subject to authorization by their respective service.

The Military Personnel Flight will update the award to records, with no action required by individual service members.

Updates should be completed by June 1, and members may check Virtual MPF or their orderly rooms to verify the update.

For more information, please contact the MPF at Ext. 2575. *(Courtesy of Air Force Personnel Center News Service)*

**Speakers are needed for the Columbus AFB Speaker’s Bureau. Anyone interested in speaking about the Air Force or their career field at civic clubs, career fairs, science fairs, elementary schools or high schools in the Golden Triangle area can come to the public affairs office and fill out an application. Call Ext. 7068.**



## NEWS BRIEFS

### 14th Contracting Squadron closure

The 14th Contracting Squadron will be closed from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday for training. For more information, call Ext. 7802.

### Dorm dinner

The May dorm dinner is at 5 p.m. Thursday at the chapel annex. The First Sergeants Association will grill steaks and baked potatoes. For more information, call the chapel at Ext. 2500 or a first sergeant.

### AFAF campaign success

Thanks go out to all BLAZE TEAM members who participated in the Air Force Assistance Fund Campaign, held March 16 through April 20. Columbus AFB raised a total of \$38,813, exceeding its goal to 150 percent.

The funds will be used to support the Air Force Village, Indigent Widows' Fund, Air Force Aid Society, Air Force Enlisted Foundation and the General and Mrs. Curtis E Lemay Foundation. For more information about the campaign, call Maj. Rob McGrath at Ext. 3381 or Capt. Ed Hubbard at Ext. 2239.

### Enlisted call

An enlisted call for junior enlisted Airmen is at 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Tuesday, for NCOs at 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. May 25 and for senior NCOs at 3 p.m. June 4. For more information, contact a first sergeant.

### Recyclers of the month

The 14th Civil Engineering Squadron congratulates the April recyclers of the month.

From State Village, Capt. Scott Jackson, 48th Flying Training Squadron; from Magnolia Village, Master Sgt. Rodney Bonton, 14th Mission Support Squadron; and from Capital Village, Capt. Clay Tebbe, 48th FTS.

### Asian-Pacific Heritage Month Events

An Asian buffet lunch is from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday at the Columbus Club. Cost is \$5.95 for members and \$7.95 for nonmembers.

An Asian-Pacific food taster event is at 10:30 a.m. May 22 at the exchange. The event also features dance demonstrations from Hawaii, Korea and the Philippines.

Volunteers are needed to read to children at the Child Development Center in honor of Asian-Pacific Heritage Month.

Video visits to Hawaii and South Korea, and other informational documentaries will air on Channel 64 at 5 and 7 p.m. nightly.

For more information on events or to volunteer, call Capt. John Vito at Ext. 7674.

## 14th SFS celebrates Nat'l Police Week

Airman 1st Class Boto Best  
Public Affairs

Fourteenth Security Forces Squadron personnel kicked off National Police Week with a candlelight vigil Monday night at Ceremonial Plaza.

The event was one of several organized to mark the weeklong celebration May 9 through Saturday.

"The National Peace Officers' Memorial Day service on May 15 of each year draws thousands from all across the nation to their local police departments' activities," said Master Sgt. Charles Manders, 14th SFS operations superintendent. "We at the 14th SFS wanted to do our part by hosting several activities to honor those law enforcement officers who made the ultimate sacrifice during the previous calendar year," he said.

The event honored all law enforcement personnel at Columbus AFB, as well as the Golden Triangle law enforcement community, many of whom were in attendance at the vigil.

"This profession draws persons with

strong personalities," said Tech. Sgt. Raymond Hackler, 14th SFS flight chief. "And in any organization where there are strong personalities, there are bound to be disagreements. Yet if any of you heard that an officer was down, you would not stop to find out who the officer was. You would immediately put your life on the line for that officer," Sergeant Hackler said to security forces personnel attending the event.

Security forces personnel are involved in much more than the day-to-day duties people see.

"We support civilian agencies active throughout the area such as the Golden Triangle Crime Stoppers, which solves crimes through paying informants for information," Sergeant Manders said. "We also have monthly meetings with local law enforcement agencies to compare crime statistics for local communities."

Additionally, security forces personnel frequently deploy troops overseas, as well as participate in local community service projects including serving at homeless shelters and assisting with Habitat for Humanity projects.

The 14th SFS also provides more



Airman 1st Class Boto Best

**Airman 1st Class Monica Newcomb plays taps at the candlelight vigil held Monday night in honor of National Police Week.**

than just law enforcement for the base community. Quarters checks when personnel are on leave, storage of privately owned weapons, McGruff the Crime Fighting Dog visits and support of the 14th Flying Training Wing Honor Guard are just a few of the these additional services.

For more information, call Ext. 7120.

## Springtime arrives with uninvited guests 14th Medical Group offers tips on staying protected

Senior Airman Chris Williams  
14th Medical Operations Squadron

As the seasons change and the weather becomes warmer, once forgotten insect friends have begun to reappear. In recent years one particular insect, the mosquito, has generated increased concern.

Here is some background information on this unique insect:

- Only the female bites. The male feeds on nectar from trees, plants, and flowers.

- Most female mosquitoes require a blood meal before they can produce eggs.

- Female mosquitoes feed on a wide variety of hosts, ranging from cold-blooded amphibians to man.

- Life span of adult mosquitoes can range from a few days to more than six months.

Mosquitoes can be an annoyance, especially for those who enjoy the outdoors or like to sit on their porches and enjoy the evening.

Some mosquitoes are also a medical threat, transmitting various diseases such as West Nile Virus and Dengue Fever. In the Southeast, April through October are the most

prevalent months for mosquito activity.

To ensure the health and safety of the residents of Columbus AFB, Public Health monitors several areas on base for mosquito activity during the high risk months. Samples of mosquitoes collected are tested for diseases that may be a medical threat to the base population.

Public Health recommends appropriate measures for decreasing and controlling mosquito activity on the installation to 14th Civil Engineering Squadron pest management.

Some methods of control are: draining ditches and standing water sources, placing larvicide in breeding areas, and chemical fogging or spraying.

Here are some things that people can do to protect themselves and decrease the numbers of mosquitoes in their immediate surroundings:

- Dispose of tires and containers that collect water.

- Change water in birdbaths, flower vases and pet dishes frequently.

- Empty child wading pools when not in use.

- Avoid ditches, tall grass, bushes, ponds and marshes.

- When outdoors for extended periods or during dawn and dusk; apply effective insect repellents, such as DEET



Courtesy photo

**Some mosquitoes can cause deadly diseases such as the West Nile Virus.**

or equivalent (Be sure to read the manufactures labels and warnings), and wear long sleeves and pants.

The spring season can be beautiful time of the year — enjoy and be mindful of the creatures that share our surroundings.

For more information, contact Public Health at x2141.

## Active-duty Airmen to begin testing for HIV every two years

**BOLLING AFB, Washington, D.C. —**

Beginning June 1, all active-duty Airmen will be required to complete routine human immunodeficiency virus testing every two years. This is a Defense Department policy change geared toward standardizing testing across the services, officials said.

The policy, recommended by members of the Armed Forces Epidemiological Board, will also require reservists and guardsmen called to active duty for 30 or more days to have a current HIV test within two years of the date called.

Since the Defense Department began testing in the mid-1980s, each military ser-

vice has had its own HIV-testing program. Testing intervals varied by service — from one to five years — and procedures were inconsistent, board officials said.

The two-year interval provides the best protection from the hazards associated with military service for HIV-infected servicemembers, board officials said.

HIV testing identifies servicemembers who are infected as early as possible so military health-care providers can treat them to reduce transmission.

The screenings also preclude deployment overseas and other risks that may be associated with military service for those

who are infected with the disease.

Within the Air Force, screenings preferably will occur during an Airman's preventive health assessments, said Maj. (Dr.) Mylene Huynh, a preventive medicine officer at Air Force Medical Service headquarters.

Routine interval testing does not preclude HIV screening for reasons such as testing before drug or alcohol treatment, incarceration, occupational exposure, clinical indications or at an Airman's request, Dr. Huynh said.

She also said that HIV testing will remain available for all servicemembers

upon request without inquiring as to the reason for the test.

Under the policy, active-duty Airmen are no longer required to undergo an HIV test before moving overseas or within 12 months of a consecutive overseas tour, Dr. Huynh said.

In 2003, there were 43 HIV-positive cases identified among 335,000 tests on Airmen, said officials at the Air Force Institute for Operational Health at Brooks City-Base, Texas. This included 26 among 259,000 active-duty, 10 of 35,000 reservists and seven of 41,000 guardsmen tested.



2nd Lt. Jennifer Moore

### Patch work

**Maj. Patrick Pendland, 14th Operations Support Squadron, shows honorary pilot Evan Trease class patches inside the roof of a firetruck. Evan, 14, was one of three seriously ill children who visited Columbus AFB as honorary pilots for a day. The children visited the flightline, fire department, T-37 simulators and posed for "hero" shots next to aircraft static displays.**



*Many people are unaware of the opportunity to walk, run, bike or horseback ride along Columbus AFB's Timberlane Nature Trail. Along the trail, various wetlands, trees and countless wildlife can be found. To reach the recreational area, follow Independence Ave. to the runway area. Signs found alongside the dirt road toward SAC Lake offer direction to the beginning of the trails. For more information, call Sarah Fafinski at Ext. 7958.*





Life: 10 percent what happens to us, 90 percent how we respond

Lt. Col. Stanley Spillers  
14th Flying Training Wing



When I was presented with the privilege of penning a few positive comments to share with my fellow BLAZE TEAM members, I searched high and low to find the right topic that would both inspire and motivate readers toward excellence in all they do. Then, bam — it hit me: Shoot from the hip and give what is near and dear to my heart. So, here goes ...

When life dishes out lemons, make lemonade. I am a southerner, and I love good old fashioned lemonade. I am not sure who first coined that powerful cliché, but it has challenged me over the years to get my attitude in check.

Making anything “sweet” with a sour lemon would appear to be an oxymoron, but as you add other important ingredients, that lemon can be transformed into a delicious thirst quencher on those blistering hot summer days. So it is in life.

There are times when we may be confronted with situations that appear so dark and dismal, there seems

to be no end in sight. Take your job, for example; or better yet, consider being selected to deploy to some obscure location around the world. I can speak from experience as this certainly happened to me at a very inopportune time in my life.

My first deployment came at the heels of my second child’s birth. In less than three weeks of his arrival, I was gone ... Needless to say, it was not a very happy time for my wife (who, by the way, is a fellow Air Force officer) and at the time on convalescent leave to pull the weight of managing a household and two children.

Indeed it was a challenge, but our challenge became a blessing as we learned the value of family and friends to help carry our load. In the end, we survived; and five years later, we are even stronger as a family because of the personal sacrifices we had to endure for a much greater cause: defending the freedoms of this great country.

You may be thinking, “OK, you made a sacrifice, but what can I possibly do in this not-so-glamorous job? In fact it’s the pits!” Wow, here’s an excellent way to really make a 180-degree attitude adjustment.

Instead of viewing your job as a dungeon of repulsiveness, why not channel that negative energy into something positive? In my wildest dreams, I would

never have thought that I would enjoy being a wing plans officer. In and of itself, the title alone is definitely not glamorous or one that many are anxious to pursue. But when I considered my role and the impact I can have on the overall mission readiness of this magnificent team, I suddenly arrived at the realization that I’m in one of the most important positions on this base.

As such, I need to find ways to think outside the box to make an impact for not only the base, but for the command. Hence, the vision took root and ultimately resulted in the first ever Air Education and Training Command Wing Plans conference, which we were privileged to host at Columbus. The command plans community has now decided to make this an annual event.

I certainly have no bragging rights, as this was a complete team effort, from Freddie King and Ida Solomon taking care of all of the billeting arrangements, to Airman 1st Class Rian Hickey capturing the minutes. This conference clearly demonstrated the dedication of my XP team, Howard McCollum and Airman 1st Class Nita Crawford, and the camaraderie of my fellow BLAZE TEAM members.

See ATTITUDE, Page 8

STRAIGHT TALK LINE

*The Straight Talk Line is your direct line to the commander for comments and suggestions on how to make Columbus AFB better. Although the Straight Talk Line is always available, the best way to resolve problems is through the chain of command. The Straight Talk Line phone number is 434-7058. Callers should leave their full name and phone number to receive an answer. All names are kept confidential. Messages are answered in the Silver Wings without names.*

*Written questions may also be brought to the public affairs office in the wing headquarters building, Bldg. 724. People can also access the Straight Talk program through the Blazeweb at <https://columbusweb> and the main website at [www.columbus.af.mil](http://www.columbus.af.mil). Questions and answers will be edited for brevity.*

Land Road improvements

**Question:** I have a comment concerning Land Road, just outside the base. It would appear that Land Road is the best, if not the only, way to bridge the distance between the east and south gates. Therefore, it would seem in the base’s best interest to work something out with Lowndes County to improve (widening and/or repaving) that particular road. Also, considering it borders some base housing, I suggest adding some additional streetlights, especially for security concerns.

**Answer:** We are always working with local officials to improve the infrastructure in the local area. In fact, our discussions with Lowndes County officials resulted in the repaving of Highway 373 outside the south gate. The only thing we can promise is that we will open discussions with county officials on this topic. However, just as with any off-base infrastructure, local officials are facing tight budgetary concerns.

Col. Stephen Wilson  
14th Flying Training Wing commander

SILVER WINGS

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Civilian Personnel.....	434-2635
Clinic:	
Family Practice.....	434-2172
Appointment Desk.....	434-2273
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Housing Maintenance.....	434-7370
Inspector General.....	434-2927
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Military Equal Opportunity.....	434-2546
Security Forces.....	434-7129
Shoppette.....	434-6026

Secretary, chief send Armed Forces Day message

*(Editor’s note: The following is an Armed Forces Day message from Secretary of the Air Force, Dr. James Roche, and Air Force Chief of Staff, Gen. John Jumper.)*

Since 1949, America has paid tribute to its men and women in uniform by celebrating Armed Forces Day on the third Saturday in May. Grateful Americans in every state will hold parades and fly Old Glory to honor those who have worn the uniform either as Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen or Marines.

“It is indeed an important time to be a member of our

nation’s Armed Forces and especially to be an Airman. America needs your service today as much, if not more, than any other time in our country’s history. America’s security is a global issue as we continue the fight in the war on terrorism. Our country needs your steadfast devotion to protecting the freedoms we enjoy.

Today, we serve a grateful nation. From shore to shore, Americans are proud of your professional competence, combat capabilities and unwavering courage to defend our country. They have seen firsthand your efforts in the mountains of Afghanistan

and the skies over Iraq and your steadfastness in protecting our homeland. They have reveled with us in your triumphs and cried with us when we’ve lost brothers and sisters in battle.

You represent the pride and patriotism of the United States. You are the standard for sacrifice, devotion and bravery. We are proud to serve with you. On this Armed Forces Day, let’s remember those who came before us and those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. May God bless all of you and our great nation.

complete the mission.

Their proficiency and confidence enhances their performance and reflects well on the organization. They look good and the unit looks good.

When highly trained people become the trademark of the unit, the unit quickly gets a reputation for being one of the best in the business. Great units are full of people who display loyalty and pride.

It is sometimes difficult to determine if loyalty and pride create great units, or if great units promote loyalty and pride. Suffice it to say, loyalty and pride are contagious attributes, and great organizations have little trouble attracting and developing great folks who display these qualities.

The best units also understand the importance of effective communication. Think about the myriad ways effective

communication enhances a unit.

Good units establish goals and ensure their people know what these goals are and how they’ll be accomplished. Good units ensure that everyone understands the mission and where the unit is trying to go.

They make it a point to recognize their folks, both formally and informally, to ensure people get the credit they deserve. They provide formal and informal feedback and ensure people understand their strengths and weaknesses. People are aware of how to improve their performance and contributions to the unit.

Good units also provide their folks with the best information available on deployments, work schedules and contingencies. This enhances long-range planning and creates stability at home and in the workplace.

If you are fortunate enough to be part of a great organization, congratulations. If not,

see what you can contribute to your unit to start moving it in the right direction.

People should get the training they deserve, and ensure those who work with and for them do the same. Know how to do the job well, and continue to get the training and experience needed to continually improve.

Know what it is that the unit is trying to accomplish. Understand your role, no matter how seemingly insignificant, in accomplishing the mission.

Promote and demand long-range planning and stability. Be willing to compliment and reward those who do a great job. Expect and provide feedback.

And finally, be proud and be loyal. Your organization is just that — it’s yours! It is a reflection of you and of those who work with you. Be willing to make it better. Be willing to make it great.

ATTITUDE (Continued from Page 7)

Well, so much for the job. How about being assigned at Columbus AFB? “There is nothing to do.” The question one would have to ask is, “Why, and what can I do to improve my negative attitude?”

It is very easy to get into a routine of simply becoming a recluse. If that’s what you enjoy, then so be it. I personally opt to take a different angle. Simply put, it is called time management. Realizing that my life is but a vapor, here today and gone tomorrow, I must decide whether I choose to sulk in my alleged misfortune or take a more positive approach and begin to accentuate the positives. I choose to do the latter. Once you open your vision and look around, you’ll find that there are many things to do in the community that could very easily consume all of your time if you’re not careful. It is apparent and quite evident that there are BLAZE TEAM members who could use a friend or two and are longing for someone to help bring them out of their reclusive states. That person could very well

be you. Admit it, we all need friends. The life you impact today could very well change the course of one’s destiny. So seek opportunities to encourage and keep complaining to a minimum. Besides, it is wasted energy.

So, I’ve talked about work, friendship, and life in general. How can this all be pulled together to make a final nugget to pass on? Here goes ... whether it’s in your daily routine at home with family and friends, job, school, church, etc., the common denominator is attitude. I have the power to choose to allow my circumstances to be a blessing or a stumbling block. I’ve found that it takes more energy to be negative than it does to actually accept things that I can’t change and to move on to other matters where I can make a positive change and impact. A famous quote from Chuck Swindol best captures all I’ve tried to do in this brief moment. “Life is 10 percent what happens to us and 90 percent how we respond to it.” I challenge you to make an impact where you are ... Enjoy life!

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

*Special thanks to 1st Lt. Ryan Nelson, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron, for his work with the installation voting program. He recently volunteered to help Col. Stephen Wilson, [14th Flying Training Wing Commander], fill out the required application for absentee voting materials.*

*Lieutenant Nelson is one of 38 total unit voting counselors who are volunteering their time and efforts to help all members of the BLAZE TEAM and voting-eligible family members participate in the 2004 elections. Well done!*

Lt. Col. David Franz  
14th Flying Training Wing





Brittany Critcher, 8, and Jimmieka Acosta, 6, draw pictures and color them.



Kindergardners Darby Gray, 6, gets a head start on Gifford Bailey, Jr., 6, in the potato race, while Regina Bowen, 48th Flying Training Squadron sports day volunteer, coaches him.

# Summer’s only a hop, skip, jump away ...

*But Franklin Academy students started early with Sports Day at Freedom Park*

**Airman 1st Class Boto Best**  
Public Affairs

Despite threatening clouds and a dismal forecast, Franklin Academy’s Sports Day went off without a hitch at Freedom Park Wednesday. More than 300 children participated in the event, one of the school’s many activities marking the end of the academic year. The field day has been a tradition between the base and the school, for at least decade. “Downtown kids always look forward to the event,” said Betty Sessum, Franklin Academy’s physical education teacher. “For many of them, it’s the only time they get to visit the base. The base children also enjoy showing off their playground.” The children rotated through different stations by class in groups of about 10. Among the many activities were hula-hoops, jumping ropes, tug-

of-war and sac races competitions. Health and wellness center personnel also gave the children workouts with activities such as jumping jacks and stretches. Many Columbus AFB personnel also volunteered to assist with the event. “I’d like to thank each and every one of the volunteers for their great enthusiasm and energy,” said Lee Chouinard, event coordinator. “Not just the personnel out there doing the activities, but also the many agencies who helped in the organization. Without the support of the volunteers and the help from base agencies, it couldn’t have been successful. “There were obstacles to overcome including the looming weather, but everything worked out terrific. All the behind-the-scenes planning was worth it when we saw the smiles on the kids’ faces.” Franklin Academy teachers agreed.

“This was the most organized sports day we’ve had,” said Alice Scallions, fourth grade teacher. “The base added several events for us, including the self-portraits and time on the Air Force-themed playground equipment. “The children talk about and look forward to Sports Day at the base from the beginning of the school year until it happens,” she said. The rain held out until after the children had left the base. Once back at school, they wrote thank-you notes to Columbus AFB for helping to make their field day great. “Dear Columbus AFB,” wrote fourth grader Quan Martin. “Thank you for Sports Day. I enjoyed the basketball shoot-out. We were supposed to make five points. I made four out of five. The refreshments were really delicious. I hope we do this again next year.”



Alayna Darling, 6, leads her kindergarden team to victory in a girls vs. boys tug-of-war match.



Cyaira Rosas, 6, enjoys the magic of the parachute with her kindergarden class. Franklin Academy students attended a field day at Freedom Park Wednesday.



Artray Reid, 10, jumps rope at with his 2nd grade class. He had the highest number of jumps for his class.

Photos by Airman 1st Class Boto Best



AT THE CHAPEL

**Catholic**  
**Sunday:**  
9:15 a.m. — Mass  
5 p.m. — Confessions  
5:30 p.m. — SUPT Mass  
**Protestant**  
**Sunday:**  
10:45 a.m.— Traditional worship  
1 p.m. — Contemporary worship  
**Tuesday:**  
Noon — Lunch and Bible study  
**Wednesday:**  
5:30 p.m. — Dinner and Bible study  
7 p.m. — Choir rehearsal  
For Islamic, Jewish, Orthodox or other services, call the chapel at Ext. 2500.

AT THE MOVIES

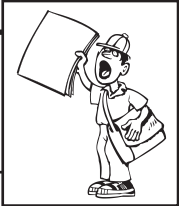
All movies are shown at 7 p.m., unless otherwise noted, at the base theater.  
**Today**  
“*Jersey Girl*” (PG-13, language and sexual content including frank dialogue, 103 min.)  
Starring: Ben Affleck and Live Tyler.  
“*The Ladykillers*” (Showing at 9:30 p.m., R, language including sexual references, 104 min.)  
Starring: Tom Hanks and Marlon Wayans.  
**Saturday**  
“*The Prince and Me*” (PG, some sex-related material and language, 11 min.)  
Starring: Julie Stiles and Luke Mably.  
For more information about movies, visit [www.cafbgrapevine.com](http://www.cafbgrapevine.com).

CHANNEL 64

BLAZE 64 offers announcements for people living in base housing or the dormitories.  
For more information, call public affairs at Ext. 7068.

**Weekdays**  
**9 a.m., noon and 2 p.m.**  
*Air Force Television News*

BASE NOTES



**Vacation Bible School:** Lava Lava Island – Where Jesus’ love flows is from 9 a.m. to noon June 7 through June 11. Volunteers are still needed. An Air Force Instruction exists that allows five days permissive TDY for this event if approved by a supervisor. For more information, call Joy Garrison at Ext. 2500.

**International women’s group:** A women’s group for wives of international military members at Columbus AFB meets for a potluck luncheon from noon to 2 p.m. Monday at the base chapel annex. Supplies for creating photo albums are available. This is an opportunity for international women to gather and share a culturally diverse experience. For more information, call Liisi Herring at 356-9267.

**Canned food drive:** The Columbus Company Grade Officer Council is conducting a canned food drive for the Mark Mitchell Shelter through May 21. Non-perishable food items, diapers and wipes, baby formula, toiletries and clothing of all sizes may be dropped off at collection boxes located in each squadron, or contact 2nd Lt. Tywann Telfair at Ext. 3179.

**Education center announcements:** The education center May testing schedule is as follows: Monday, Wednesday, May 24 and May 26 at 8 a.m. On Wednesday and May 26, testing is also at 1 p.m.  
Final registration for East Mississippi Community College summer classes is from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 24 through May 26.  
Summer registration for the Mississippi University for Women is from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 28, July 6 and August 19 at the base education center. For more information, call the education center at Ext. 2563.

**Case lot sale:** A case lot sale is 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. May 21, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. May 22 and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (or as long as supplies last) May 23 at the commissary.

A list of items, including paper goods, canned goods, beverages and more, is available at the commissary and at [www.commissaries.com](http://www.commissaries.com). For more information, call store director Paula Lewis at Ext. 7109.



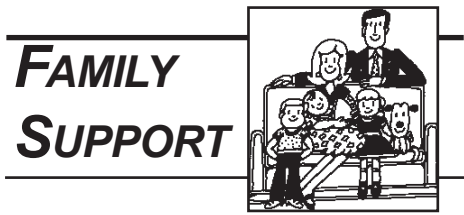
Airman Cecilia Rodriguez

Tales for toddlers

Pat Jones, library technician, reads while Zachary Miller, Jeyani James and Sammy Marquez, child development center children from the 3- to 5-year-old group, listen during preschool storytime at the base library. The library offers this 30-minute program Wednesdays. For more information, call Ext. 2934.

**Squadron closure:** The 14th Contracting Squadron will be closed May 27 due to the vendors’ fair and mandatory government purchase card training at the Trotters Convention Center.

**Blood drive:** The American Red Cross is conducting a blood drive from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 28 at the chapel annex. All Columbus AFB personnel are urged to donate. The drive falls on a three-day weekend, enabling pilots to give blood as well. Red Cross personnel will screen all donors for eligibility. For more information, call Ext. 2123.



**(Editor’s note:** All activities are offered at the family support center unless otherwise specified. For more information about any of the activities listed, call Ext. 2790.)

**Daddy Tool Time Workshop:** A workshop for new fathers or fathers-to-be is at noon Wednesday. The workshop discusses a father’s role during and after pregnancy and information to prepare for lifestyle changes that accompany a new baby.

**Stress management workshop:** A stress management workshop for new parents or parents-to-be is at 2 p.m. Wednesday. Stressors and challenges with newborns and growing children, coping techniques, and military and community resources are discussed.

**Coping with difficult people:** A workshop on how to cope with difficult people in the workplace is at 1 p.m. Thursday. Participants learn how to identify “difficult” people and situations.

**Hearts Apart Social:** A social gathering for families of deployed or remote personnel is at 5:30 p.m. Thursday. Information, refreshments and prizes are provided.

**Achieving balance workshop:** A workshop about achieving balance at work and in families is from 1 to 3 p.m. May 25. Topics include identifying important aspects of life and ideas for getting organized, controlling wasted time, overcoming procrastination, and learning how to say “no” and delegate responsibility.

**Medical workshop:** The family support center is compiling a list of interested participants for a medical workshop about medical transcription and terminology. Prerequisites apply to attend a medical transcriptionist workshop.

Outdoor Recreation offers ticket to adventure  
Military discounts available on cruises, airlines, major attractions

Pam Warnken  
14th Services Division

On any given Friday afternoon, Outdoor Recreation is a beehive of weekend adventurers dropping in to pick up weekend gear from canoes to pull-behind campers.

“For the price and convenience, you just can’t beat Outdoor Recreation,” said director Joe Caldiero who spends his workday in a tiny treasure box of outdoor gear tucked away by the fuel farm. Summer is the big season for Outdoor Recreation’s multi-tasking staff. His team has added several non-traditional services to better serve base patrons.



Courtesy photo

Lt. Col. Mike Mangus and Capt. June Cruse, 41st Flying Training Squadron, plan a sortie in Lemay Flight. Captain Cruse and her sister leave Monday on a week-long cruise to Mexico, arranged through Outdoor Recreation for less than \$400 per person.

Some of the new offerings include lawn service, with fees ranging from \$20 to \$50.

This can free people up for other activities overseen by Outdoor Recreation. These include skeet and trap shooting at the Rod and Gun Club out by the golf driving range, and even horsemanship at the stables hidden away north of the runway.

“We have 14 privately owned horses, and we also offer riding lessons,” Mr. Caldiero said.

One hot item is ticketing for major attractions in the United States, often with big discounts. This includes nearby destinations like Geyser Falls. About an hour away at Pearl River Resort, Geyser Falls is a first-class casino and entertainment complex operated by the Mississippi Band of the Choctaw Indians.

Mr. Caldiero said Geyser Park and the Hard Rock Café Beach Club next door, both opened in 2003, make for an appealing day trip.

“It’s an awesome place. “The beach looks like a real resort with imported sand, palm trees — the whole bit.”

He said the Hard Rock Café Beach Club is the only one Hard Rock has opened in the United States.

Arranging travel also keeps Outdoor Recreation busy. They set up tours locally in Columbus, and sometimes as far away as Denver, Chicago or Washington, D.C.

For those sticking close to base, Outdoor Recreation is the central reservations point for Freedom Park, Simler Park, and SAC Lake, Mr. Caldiero said.

Leisure travel is also located in Outdoor Recreation, with access to airlines, hotels and rental cars.

“In most cases, our prices are as good as anyone will find online,” Mr. Caldiero said. “We use Expedia, Orbitz, and have direct access to 15 airlines. But there is a small service charge when travel is booked.”

For those yearning for the high seas, Outdoor

Recreation might be a good option.

“We handle up to 15 cruise bookings a month,” Mr. Caldiero said. “And military discounts right now are astronomical. We’ve gotten five-day cruises for as low as \$270 per person on Carnival out of New Orleans.”

He said the secret to finding great travel deals is to check often and remember, “timing is everything.” Early fall and early spring are the best times for excellent military rates.

First Lt. Ryan Nelson, 14th Civil Engineering Squadron, got a sweet deal in March for his honeymoon.

“I just went over there because I knew Outdoor Recreation did cruise reservations,” he said. The whole deal with stops in Cozumel, Carmen del Playa, Mexico, taxes and everything was \$850 for the couple. “Not bad at all,” Lieutenant Nelson said.

Capt. June Cruse, an instructor pilot with the 41st Flying Training Squadron, is among several Columbus AFB people who got a great bargain on a May 17 Carnival cruise all because she listened closely during the Services portion of February’s in-processing session.

“I had promised to take my sister Amanda on a cruise for her college graduation present. Once I heard that talk, I just marched right over there to Outdoor Recreation,” she said. Her timing was charmed.

“When I walked in, Joe Caldiero had a cruise deal for the exact week I wanted to go,” she said. The sisters leave Monday from New Orleans. “It’s going to be like Christmas in May,” she said.

Mr. Caldiero said many people just don’t realize what Outdoor Recreation can do for them. “We’re so convenient, and our business is fun, travel and leisure.”

**(Editor’s note:** Outdoor Recreation is planning a white water rafting trip to Tennessee on Memorial Day weekend. For more information, call Ext. 2507.)



Pam Wickham

“One please”

Wilma Morgan, bowling center food service worker, sells 2nd Lt. Eric Werking, 41st Flying Training Squadron, a breakfast burrito. Ms. Morgan delivers breakfast burritos to various squadron buildings from 6:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Monday through Friday. Cost is \$1.25 each. For more information on routes and times, call Ext. 2426.

SNAPSHOTS

**Disc Jockey Kool Kleve:** The enlisted lounge features the music of DJ Kool Kleve from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. today. Call Ext. 2490.

**Oriental lunch buffet:** The Columbus Club offers an Oriental lunch buffet from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday. Cost is \$5.95 for members and \$7.95 for nonmembers. Call Ext. 2490.

**4-H club meeting:** The club meets at 5 p.m. Thursday at the youth center. Call Ext. 2504.

**Free youth computer camp:** The youth center offers this camp from 4 to 6 p.m. May 24 to May 28. It is open to ages 8 to 18. Youth center members may register until Saturday for first priority. Nonmembers are admitted on a first come,

first serve basis. Class size is limited to ten. Call Ext. 2504.

**Free lap swimming:** Independence Pool opens early for lap swimming May 24 to May 27 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4 to 6 p.m.

The pool re-opens for the season May 28 and will be open seven days a week from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Season passes are on sale at Outdoor Recreation. Call Ext. 2507.

**White water rafting trip:** The information, ticket and travel office offers this trip May 29 through May 31 to the Ocoee River.

Cost is \$99 per person and includes river/rafting run, two meals, two nights’ lodging in a cabin and transportation. Call Ext. 7861.



**S.P.E.E.C.H meeting:** Supportive Parents Encouraging Every Child’s Hearing invites all parents of children who have hearing loss to join them from 6 to 8 p.m. May 22 at Emmanuel Baptist Church on 18th Street in downtown Columbus for their monthly meeting.

This month’s speaker is Jackie Green of *Parent Partners*. She will discuss how to best advocate for children with hearing loss in the school setting. This will be an informal meeting, and childcare is provided. For more information, call Tina Moore at 327-0424.

**Memorial Day ceremony:** The Clay County Development Corporation in partnership with the City of West Point, Miss., is hosting a Memorial Day ceremony at 6 p.m. May 31 at the Sally Kate Winters Park behind West Point City Hall in downtown West Point.

All are invited to pay tribute to the patriots and defenders of America’s freedom. The ceremony features the Table of Honor by the honor guard, patriotic music and a next-of-kin flag presentation. People are encouraged to bring lawn chairs

and blankets. In case of inclement weather, the event will be held at First Presbyterian Church EPC at East and Broad Streets. For more information, call 494-5121.

**Free Memorial Day entrees:** Sweet Peppers Deli, Harveys, The Grill, and the Bull Dog Deli are honoring all men and women in uniform May 31. Servicemembers (including military personnel, policemen, firemen and veterans) must be in uniform to receive one complimentary entree at any of their eight locations. This offer is valid only on Memorial Day and is limited to only one per customer with no purchase necessary.

**Bus Stop:** The Columbus Community Theater presents *Bus Stop* at 7:30 p.m. June 1 through June 3 and June 5 at the Princess Theater in downtown Columbus.

*Bus Stop* is a light adult comedy performed by a troupe of local talent. The play is set in a small town diner where a group of travelers are stranded due to a snow storm. Once performed as a movie starring Marilyn Monroe, the play contains plenty of comedy and action.

Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$5 for seniors, students and military personnel, and can be purchased at the door. For more information, call 328-2787.

**Air show:** Maxwell AFB in Montgomery, Ala., is hosting a two-day air show from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. June 5 through June 6. Opening ceremonies begin at 11 a.m. each day. The public is invited to attend this event commemorating the 60th anniversary of the invasion of Normandy, France, in 1944. For more information, visit [www.maxwell.af.mil/airshow](http://www.maxwell.af.mil/airshow).

**5th Annual AFA Quail Dinner:** The Golden Triangle Chapter’s annual Quail Dinner takes place at Mogowah Gun Club. The special guest this year is retired Gen. John Shaud, former commander of Air Education and Training Command. Cocktails are at 5 p.m. and dinner is served at 6 p.m.. Cost is \$25 per person. To make reservations, call 434-2645.

*For more event listings, visit [www.columbus-ms.org](http://www.columbus-ms.org).*

BARGAIN LINE

Bargain Line advertisement

*The Bargain Line is free for all military members (including guard and reserve members), DOD civilians, military retirees, family members and contract employees.*

*Bargain Line advertisements must be turned in to the Silver Wings office in the 14th Flying Training Wing headquarters building by noon Monday to be included in the following week's issue. Late ads will be held over for the next issue.*

*Reruns must be phoned in to the Silver Wings office, 434-7068, by noon Monday for inclusion in the next week's issue. Please do not re-submit ads for rerun on this form. Advertisements should contain a home phone number, home address or both. Duty phone numbers will not appear in the ads.*

*Advertisements for private businesses or services providing a continuous source of income, such as baby-sitting or rental property, may not appear in the Bargain Line. They may, however, be purchased through the Silver Wings publisher, 328-2424. Please fill out this form completely. The Silver Wings staff reserves the right to edit ads as necessary.*

Type of advertisement (circle one):	Home	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Yard sales	Pets
Print advertisement:	_____				
	_____				
	_____				
	_____				
Name:	_____				
Home Telephone #:	_____	Duty Telephone #:	_____		
			(in case we need more information)		

*Please let us know what you think of the Silver Wings:*

Are you happy with the Silver Wings?    Yes ☐    No ☐

What would you like to see more of in the newspaper?    News ☐    Sports ☐    Photos ☐

If you would like to give any other suggestions, please e-mail us at [silverwings@columbus.af.mil](mailto:silverwings@columbus.af.mil).

SFS extinguish Blazettes in 3 innings, 22-0

Airman Cecilia Rodriguez  
Public Affairs

The 14th Security Forces Squadron defeated the Blazettes 22-0 during an intramural softball game Tuesday at Softball Field 1.

“They hustle every day at practice,” said Dori Gilder, Blazettes head coach. “I think they were just nervous.”

The fate of the Blazettes, Columbus AFB’s first all-female intramural softball team, was practically sealed at the top of the first inning when SFS ran through the order almost three times.

Fielding troubles plagued the ladies as SFS showered them with short fly balls and infield hits. The cops scored 18 runs before the Blazettes even got a chance to step to the plate.

“We were just hoping to play well and get the season off to a good start,” said Preston Holt, SFS. “We had a lot of good hits because we hit the ball in places where there was no coverage.”

Their first time at bat, the Blazettes’ lead-off batter got on with a single. But the next three up were retired in order, quickly putting them back in the field.

At the top of the second inning, SFS switched up their hitting patterns and covered the outfield in deep fly balls. More comfortable with their fielding, the ladies successfully snagged a majority of the flies, but not before SFS tacked on four more runs.

The umpire was forced to call the game at the top of the third, due to the 50-minute rule, and SFS celebrated a 22-0 win.

“We don’t think we saw the best they have to offer as a team,” Holt said. “I think it was just a little bit of nervousness.”

Mike Wilburn, fitness and sports center director, agrees.

“I have seen the Blazettes practice, and they’re really good,” Wilburn said. “They just needed an actual game to find out what they need to improve on. Tonight they got their chance.”

Regardless of the final score, the Blazettes’ spirits remained high.

“If we get down and dirty, we’re going to win,” Gilder said. “Our girls are really pumped. This loss isn’t going to get them down.”

*(Editor’s note: Base intramural sport standings are available online at [www.cafb.services.com/fitness/leagues.html](http://www.cafb.services.com/fitness/leagues.html))*



Airman Cecilia Rodriguez  
Shera Ferrell, Blazettes, throws the opening pitch at Tuesday’s game.

SHORTS

Sports physicals

Sports and camp physicals will be conducted on a walk-in basis between 3 and 4:30 p.m. today at the 14th Medical Group Family Practice Clinic. For more information, call the clinic at Ext. 2273.

Tuskegee Airmen golf tourney

A Tuskegee Airmen golf tournament is Saturday at the Whispering Pines Golf course. Cost is \$35 per person and includes lunch. Tee off is at 7:30 a.m. For more information, call Charles Gilliam at Ext. 2829.

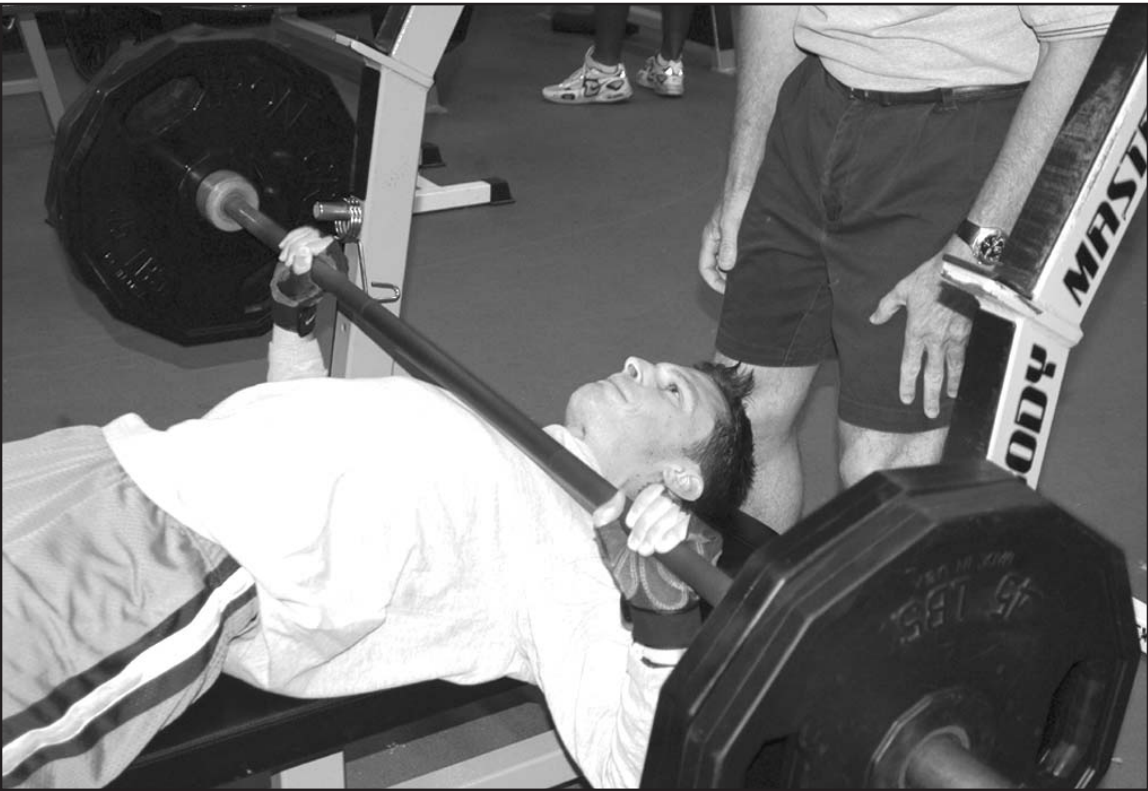
Youth center health seminar

A youth center health and wellness mini seminar is at 4 p.m. May 19 at the youth center. Topics include nutrition, eating disorders, proper exercise and more. For more information, call Ext. 2504.

AF Marathon

Military personnel interested in competing on an official team in the 2004 Air Force Marathon at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, September 18 need to register at the fitness center no later than May 28.

Categories of competition include coed open relay, men’s open relay and women’s open relay. Each team will consist of four military members from the same installation. Each team member must complete an AF Form 303, Specialized Sports Training form. General entries for the marathon are due by September 7. For more information, call the fitness and sports center at Ext. 2772.



Airman Cecilia Rodriguez

Heavy metal

Doug Trask puts his muscles to the test during the Air Education and Training Command Muscle Mania event Saturday at the fitness and sports center. Winners from the bench press competition will get the chance to compete at Little Rock AFB, Ark., June 4.